

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2074

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

SECDEF

CINPACREPPHIL

S E C R E T MANILA 4449

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, PFOR, RP , SN

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE REQUEST FOR TRAINING A-4 PILOTS AT U.S.

BASE IN PHILIPPINES

REF: A. SINGAPORE 1240 B. SINGAPORE 1241

1. WE BELIEVE SINGAPOREAN TACTIC OF SEEKING TO OBTAIN
U.S. AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO A-4 TRAINING AT CUBI BEFORE
OBTAINING OFFICIAL GOP APPROVAL FOR PROJECT HAS NOT SERVED
TO CLARIFY ISSUES INVOLVED. INFORMAL ASSURANCES GOS HAS
RECEIVED TO DATE FROM GOP OFFICIALS DO NOT REFLECT MEASURED
PHILIPPINE ASSESSMENT OF A-4 PROJECT AND WE DO NOT RPT NOT
BELIEVE GOP APPROVAL FOR SADC USE OF BASA AND TABONES OR
CUBI CAN BE CONSIDERED FOREGONE CONSLUSION. THEREFORE,
EMBASSY CONSIDERS GOS ATTEMPTING TO PROCEED TOO RAPIDLY ON
THIS COMPLEX QUESTIONAND THAT IT PREMATURE FOR USG TO PRONOUNCE
ITSELF ONE WAY OR THA OTHER.

2. REF A MAKES IT CLEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT SINAGPOREANS

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HAVE APPARENTLY NOT CONSIDERED THE ENTIRE RANGE OF QUESTIONS

AFFECTING PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY (CUSTOMS AND OTHER EXEMPTIONS, AMAGES, CRIMINAL JURISDICTION AND THE LIKE). OUR BASIC REASON FOR WISHING SADC TO USE BASA RATHER THAN CUBI FOR THIS PROJECT IS TO AVOID HAVING STATUS OF FORCES QUESTIONS RELATING TO SINGAPOREANS ARISING AT CUBI AND COMPLICATING OUR OWN PROBLEMS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WHEREVER SADC PERSONNEL ARE EVENTUALLY STATIONED IN PHILIPPINES, GOS AND GOP WILL, DOUBTLESS, WISH TO NEGOTIATE FARILY DETAILED AGREEMENT ON SADC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.

3. WE CONTINUE TO FEEL, IN ADDITIONS, THAT LOCATION OF SINGAPORE TRAINING AS SEMI-PERMANENT FEATURE AT U.S. BASE HAS BROADER POLITICAL CONNOTATIONS FOR THE AREA. DESPITE ASSURANCES CONTAINED KUALA LUMPUR'S 0824, WE SUSPECT THAT BOTH MALAYSIANS AND INDONESIAIS WOULD NOT BE HAPPY AT WHOEVER HOSTS TRAINING.

4. WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT GOS BE INFORMED MERELY THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED AIDE MEMOIRE (REF A). AT SAME TIME, WE SHOULD URGE GOS TO APPROACH GOP FORMALLY TO OBTAIN OFFICIAL GOP REACTION TO PROJECT. ONE GOP HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY SEIZED OF THIS QUESTION, WILL WISH TO DISCUSS IT WITH GOP PRIOR TO MAKING ANY RESPONSE TO GOS. WHILE WE ARE WAITING FOR LATTER APPROACH TO BE MADE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR CINCPAC TO DIRECT CINCPACREPPHIL TO MAKE APPROPRIATE CONTINGENCY STUDY OF RELATIVE CAPABILITIES OF CUBI AND BASA FOR PROPOSED EXTENDED TRAINING. WE DOUBT THAT CUBI COULD ACCOMMODATE SUCH TRAINING WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE STRAIN ON FACILITIES AND WE ALSO DOUBT GOP COULD HANDLE AT CROWDED BASE.
SULLIVAN

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